

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11923 251003Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /060 W

----- 116151

R 250814Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6368

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ATMOSPHERICS. MODERATE CHRISTIAN DESPONDENCY

1. YESTERDAY I CALLED ON MICHEL KHOURY ONE OF THE MARONITE LEADERS THAT ATTENDED THE SEPT 23 MEETING AT BKERKE. I HAVE NEVER KNOWN KHOURY TO BE SO DESPONDENT. HE SAID PIERRE GEMAYEL REFUSES CATEGORICALLY TO DISCUSS ANY MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING POLITICAL STRUCTURE IN THE LEBANON. IN THIS POSITION HE IS SUPPORTED 100 PERCENT BY PRESIDENT FRANGIE. FRANGIE AND GEMAYEL, ACCORDING TO KHOURY, ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE LAST CHRISTIAN AND TO DESTROY THEIR COUNTRY IN SO DOING. KHOURY IS CONVINCED THAT ONLY BY NEGOTIATIONS CAN DISASTER BE AVOIDED.

2. IN VIEW FOREGOING, KHOURY DISCOUNTS ANY POSSIBILITY OF FRANGIE RESIGNING. HE THEREFORE BELIEVES ONLY SOLUTION IS COUP D'ETAT. ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED THIS SEVERAL TIMES I INTERPRETED IT AS SYMPTOMATIC OF HIS DESPONDENCY RATHER THAN A STRONG CONVICTION.

3. KHOURY IS CONVINCED OF THE BONA FIDES OF SYRIAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 11923 251003Z

INTENTIONS AND WELCOMES KHADDAM'S AND SHEHABI'S INTER-

VENTION. HE ALSO HAS NOTED LACK OF ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION ALONG THE BORDER AND DOES NOT SUPPORT FREQUENTLY HEARD THESIS THAT ISRAEL IS DOING WHAT IT CAN TO INCREASE LEBANESE INSECURITY.

4. RE BKERKE MEETING, KHOURY NOTED "RELATIVE MODERATION" OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE. KHOURY OPINED THIS RESULTED FROM HIS AND RAYMOND EDDE'S PRESENCE, AS WELL POSSIBLY, OF CHAMOUN, FOR OTHERWISE HARD-NOSED MARONITES WOULD HAVE COME OUT WITH A BLOCKBUSTER. KHOURY NEVERTHELESS AGREED THAT PATRIARCH KHURAYSH IS A MODERATE, WISE INDIVIDUAL BUT HE UNFORTUNATELY IS STILL "TOO YOUNG" IN THE JOB TO CARRY THE WEIGHT HE SHOULD.

5. WE DISCUSSED A BIT WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT LEBANON'S FRIENDS MIGHT DO AT THIS TIME TO HELP. HE INQUIRED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR USG TO DEAL WITH PLO AND TO ACHIEVE SOME EARLY PROGRESS IN SYRO-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS ON GOLANS. WHEN I EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ON BOTH THESE POINTS, HE EXPRESSED NO SURPRISE AND ONLY MILD DISAPPOINTMENT.

6. WHILE FOREGOING OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, ATMOSPHERICS SYMPTOMATIC OF MANY THOUGHTFUL CHRISTIANS AND WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, REORGANIZATIONS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT11923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750332-0836
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750915/aaaaanfg.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE ATMOSPHERICS. MODERATE CHRISTIAN DESPONDENCY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006